

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA***

*San Diego, California*

*United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt*

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*For Immediate Release*

### **UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES INCREASE IN PROSECUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASES**

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - May 27, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced dispositions in three separate cases today in federal court in San Diego involving charges of possession of child pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B). United States Attorney Hewitt stated that in the past year the number of prosecutions of child pornography cases prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office in San Diego has increased by approximately 40 percent over 2007. According to United States Attorney Hewitt, "We are committed to prosecuting individuals who possess child pornography, which is a felony under federal law. With easy access to the Internet, we have seen a marked increase of individuals in San Diego and Imperial Counties who possess horrific images of minors engaged in unlawful and abusive sexual acts."

United States Attorney Hewitt further stated, "The San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) has done an outstanding job in investigating these important cases for prosecution by either the United States Attorney's Office or the San Diego District Attorney's Office. The San Diego ICAC is one

of the best examples of true partnership and collaboration among all federal, state and local law enforcement to prosecute individuals who possess or distribute child pornography in our community.”

The San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is composed of members from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the San Diego Police Department, the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department, the Chula Vista Police Department, the United States Attorney’s Office, the San Diego District Attorney’s Office, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the United States Marshals Service, the Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and the El Cajon Police Department.

The three child pornography case dispositions in federal court today involved a former employee of the County of San Diego, a former enlisted Marine assigned to Miramar Marine Air Station, and an unemployed resident of El Centro, California.

In the first case, Lawrence Lester Nixon pled guilty to an Information charging him with one count of possession of child pornography. Nixon entered his guilty plea before Magistrate Judge William McCurine, Jr., subject to final acceptance of the plea by United States District Court Judge William Q. Hayes, at the time of sentencing. According to the court records, Nixon admitted that between May 2006 and August 2007, he possessed a computer which contained over 600 images of minors, some as young as three or four years old, engaging in sexually explicit conduct with adults and each other. At the time of the search warrant executed at his residence, Nixon was employed with the County of San Diego in their digital photography department. Sentencing for Nixon is scheduled for August 25, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., before Judge Hayes. This case stems from a nationwide investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In the second case, Daniel Joseph Tarchala was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Marilyn L. Huff to serve 41 months in custody and 5 years of supervised release following completion of his prison term. The Court also required Tarchala to register as a sex offender. Tarchala pled guilty on March 4, 2008, to possessing a computer containing between 300-600 images of minors, some as young as five or six years old, engaging in sexually explicit conduct with adults and each other. Prior to his arrest, Tarchala was

an active-duty Marine stationed at Miramar Marine Air Station. This case stems from an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

In the third case, Nathan Morgan was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Marilyn L. Huff to serve 41 months in custody and 5 years of supervised release following completion of his prison term. The Court also required Morgan to register as a sex offender. Morgan pled guilty on February 11, 2008, to possessing a computer containing approximately 150 images of minors, some as young as eight years old, engaging in sexually explicit conduct with adults and each other. The case stems from an investigation by ICE.

These cases were also prosecuted as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide Department of Justice initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafefchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafefchildhood.gov).

### **DEFENDANTS**

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lawrence Lester Nixon  | Case Number: 08cr1241-WQH |
| Daniel Joseph Tarchala | Case Number: 08cr0519-H   |
| Nathan Morgan          | Case Number: 08cr0036-H   |

### **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B) (Possession of Child Pornography)

### **AGENCIES**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Naval Criminal Investigative Service  
San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force